

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 9. (canceled).

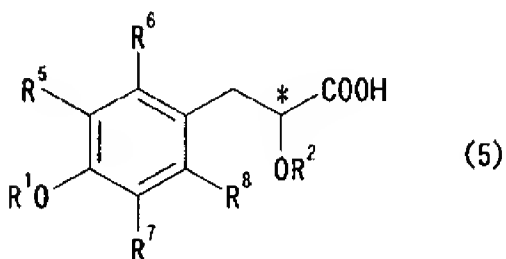
10. (currently amended): The process according to claim ~~4~~14, wherein the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim ~~4~~14 is crystallized from a solvent.

11. (original): The process according to claim 10, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

12. (currently amended): The process according to claim ~~4~~15, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim ~~4~~15 is crystallized from a solvent.

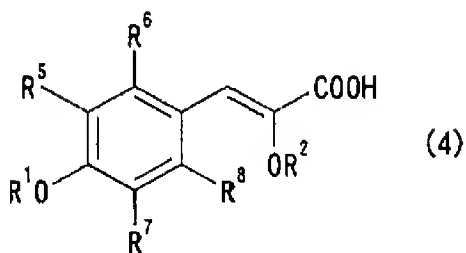
13. (original): The process according to claim 12, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

14. (Currently amended) A process for producing an optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5):



wherein R^1 is a protective group; R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a substituent; and the symbol * is an chiral carbon atom, or a salt thereof,

which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):

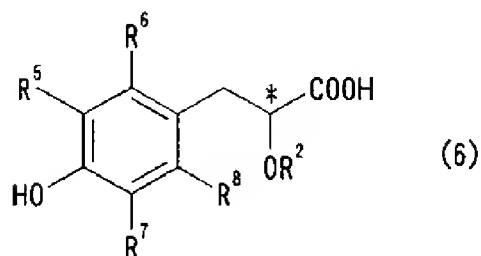


wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above, or a salt thereof,

to asymmetric hydrogenation,

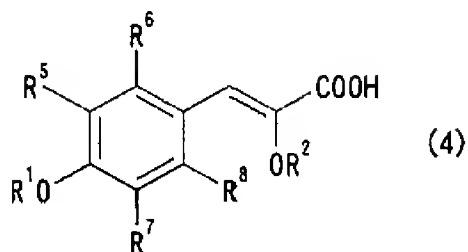
wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is a complex of Ruthenium.

15. (Currently amended) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



wherein R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each ~~independently~~ a hydrogen atom ~~or a substituent~~;
and the symbol * is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a cinnamic acid of the formula (4):



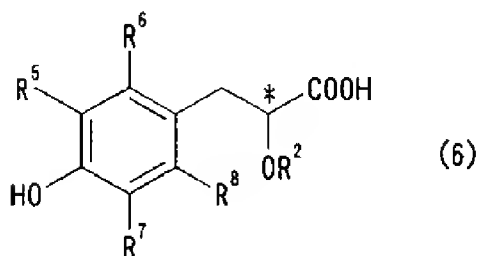
wherein R^1 is a protective group;

R^2 , and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is a complex of Ruthenium.

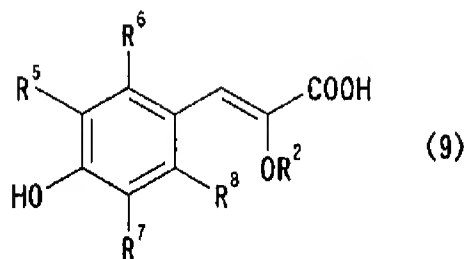
16. (Currently amended) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



wherein R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each ~~independently~~ a hydrogen atom ~~or a substituent~~;
and the symbol * is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof,

which comprises subjecting a 4-hydroxycinnamic acid of the formula (9):

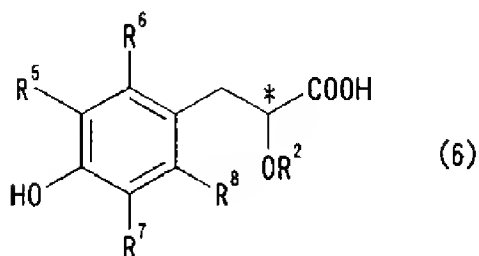


wherein R^2 , and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof to asymmetric hydrogenation,

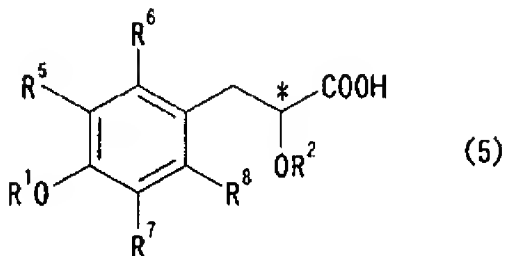
wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is a complex of Ruthenium.

17. (Currently amended) A process for producing an optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6):



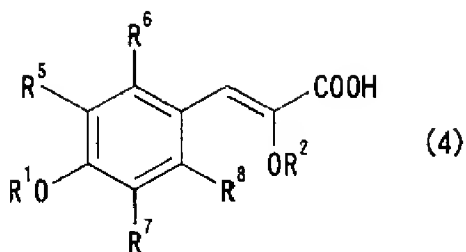
wherein R^2 is an alkyl group; R^5 to R^8 are each ~~independently~~ a hydrogen atom ~~or a substituent~~;
and the symbol * is a chiral carbon atom,

or a salt thereof, and an optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5):



wherein R^1 is a protective group; and R^2 , R^5 to R^8 and the symbol * are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, which comprises subjecting a cinnamic~~cinnamic~~ acid of the formula (4):



wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^5 to R^8 are each the same as defined above,

or a salt thereof, to asymmetric hydrogenation,

wherein the asymmetric hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a chiral catalyst which is a transition metal complex which is a complex of Ruthenium.

18. (canceled).

19. (new): The process according to claim 16, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 16 is crystallized from a solvent.

20. (new): The process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.

21. (new): The process according to claim 17, wherein the optically active 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid of the formula (6) or a salt thereof and the optically active phenylpropionic acid of the formula (5) or a salt thereof obtained by the method according to claim 17 is crystallized from a solvent.

22. (new): The process according to claim 21, wherein the solvent used for the crystallization is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, alcohols, ketones and water, and a mixture thereof.